

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for installing corner protectors onto picture frames, to protect the corners from damage during shipment, uses preforms made of a thin, flat sheet of cardboard having left and right flap sections, one of which, e.g., the right one, is bendable from the plane of the sheet to form an upper cover flap, the left flap section forming a lower cover flap. Left and right flap sections are joined at parallel vertical sides thereof to opposite vertical sides of a vertically elongated, rectangularly-shaped inner spine flap for covering a vertical side of a "right hand" picture frame molding. A horizontally elongated, rectangularly-shaped outer spine flap protrudes from a lateral edge of the lower cover flap, and a trapezoidally-shaped securement flap protrudes from the outer spine flap. A preform is positioned below a frame corner, with outside walls of left and right intersecting picture frame moldings aligned with the base and inner vertical side, respectively, of the lower cover flap, and above a pair of left and right folder mechanisms that include flap folder arms which fit into worktable recesses. A hot-melt adhesive applicator head sprays a first blob of adhesive onto an upper surface of the left-hand frame molding, whereupon a first flap folder arm is elevated to bend the outer spine flap and securement flap into a vertical position adjacent the outer vertical side of the left-hand frame molding; the first flap folder arm is then rotated towards the inside of the frame, bending the securement flap over the adhesive blob on the frame molding. A second adhesive blob is then sprayed onto the upper surface of the securement flap. Next, the second flap folder arm is elevated to bend the inner spine flap and upper cover flap into a vertical position adjacent the outer side of the right-hand frame molding, whereupon the second flap folder arm is rotated inwardly to bend the upper cover flap into a horizontal position over the second adhesive blob on the securement flap. The applicator head is then pressed against the upper cover flap, thus adhering the second adhesive blob to the upper cover flap and securement flap to form a corner protector, and adhering the first adhesive blob to the securement flap and left-hand frame molding to secure the corner protector to the frame.